

Catlin Gabel Chess Club in Equatorial Guinea

November 15-22, 2018

Executive Summary

Notes:

- Blog: <https://chessinequatorialguinea.blogspot.com/>
- ANAGE = National Equatoguinean Chess Association
- TVGE = Televisión Guinea Ecuatorial (national state television)
- Chess sets donated to schools contributed by Washington Chess Federation and Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation
- 1st Equatoguinean Open held at the Hilton Malabo
 - Co-organized by ANAGE and Catlin Gabel Chess
 - Attended by 14 players: 11 Equatoguineans, 1 Spaniard living in Malabo, 2 Americans
 - Sponsored by GEPetrol and JobService
 - ANAGE - Catlin Gabel Chess marquee banner sponsored by Catlin Gabel Student Association
- Spanish Cultural Centers are organs of the Government of Spain
- GEPetrol is the national oil company

Day 1, Thursday, 11/15:

- Received by ANAGE directorship in airport of Malabo, the Equatoguinean capital
- Arrival documented by TVGE
 - Interviewed by TVGE in VIP lounge

Day 2, Friday, 11/16:

- Met with Deputy German Ambassador in Embassy of Germany
 - The Embassy will be happy to facilitate collaboration between the German Chess Federation and ANAGE, and German chess clubs and the Malabo and Bata Chess Clubs
- Met with Director of Colegio Buen Pastor (Buen Pastor school) and donated chess sets to school
 - Buen Pastor will invite instructors from ANAGE to its classrooms as well as recognize and support the chess achievements of its two secondary students who are already succeeding on the national stage

- Met with President, Vice-President, and Secretary-General of national Olympic Committee
 - Olympic Committee endorses ANAGE and may sponsor training programs and participation of national teams in tournaments abroad
 - Olympic Committee has formally approved the recognition of ANAGE by the EG government
- Met with Director of the Lycée Français le Concorde (French School le Concorde, funded by the Government of France, located in Malabo) and donated chess sets to school
 - Le Concorde will invite instructors from ANAGE to its classrooms, revive its chess club, and promote inter-school chess exchange
 - Le Concorde sent email to all students and parents inviting them to attend 1st Equatoguinean Open

Day 3, Saturday, 11/17:

- 1st Equatoguinean Open, Day 1
- Tournament opened by Director-General of Physical Education at Equatoguinean Ministry of Education, University Instruction, and Sport; Vice-President of Olympic Committee; President of ANAGE; and Catlin Gabel Chess Co-Presidents
 - Opening documented by TVGE
- Round robin of the 14 players to determine seeding for day 2
 - Rapid time control
- Tournament play documented by TVGE

Day 4, Sunday, 11/18:

- 1st Equatoguinean Open, Day 2
- Playing field divided in two
 - Division A decided in a bracket format
 - Americans finished atop Division A, winning all games against locals, but were deemed ineligible for prizes
 - Technical Director of ANAGE Federico Elé Rano finished third and thus became national open champion
- Tournament closed by Director-General of Ministry of Education, University Instruction, and Sport; President of Olympic Committee; Marketing and Business Direction Licensee of GEPetrol; Public Affairs Officer of the Embassy of the United States in Equatorial Guinea; President of ANAGE; and Catlin Gabel Chess Co-Presidents
 - Closing ceremony documented by TVGE
- National open champion received 150,000 CFA (~\$250) courtesy of event sponsors, a book and water bottle courtesy of the Embassy of the United States, and a medal
- 2nd and 3rd local finishers in Division A each received a book and water bottle courtesy of the Embassy of the United States and a medal

- The Ministry of Education, University Instruction, and Sport certified each of the top three Equatoguinean finishers as National Instructors of Chess
- All participants received tournament certificates and US Embassy T-shirts

Day 5, Monday, 11/19:

- Met with Public Affairs Officer and Political and Economic Affairs Officer of the Embassy of the United States to Equatorial Guinea and Ambassador Julie Furuta-Toy in the U.S. Embassy in Malabo
 - Embassy will facilitate communication with American oil companies operating in Equatorial Guinea, support the donation of chess books to its shelves at the cultural centers, connect ANAGE with NGOs that can support school chess clubs, and continue to promote tournaments and contribute prizes
- Met with Manager and Communications Manager of the Spanish Cultural Center of Malabo (funded and operated by Spanish government)
 - The Center may adopt a chess workshop program and consider hosting future scholastic tournaments

Day 6, Tuesday, 11/20:

- Flew to Bata, Equatorial Guinea's most populous city and commercial capital, early in the morning
- Met with the directorship of the Spanish Cultural Center of Bata (funded and operated by Spanish government)
 - The Center may adopt a chess workshop program, consider hosting future scholastic tournaments, and introduce electronic chess resources to its digital library
 - Asonga TV documented meeting and conducted interviews afterward
- Met with the Director of the Colegio Español (Spanish School, funded by Government of Spain) and donated sets
 - The Colegio will invite instructors from ANAGE to its classrooms and promote inter-school chess exchange
 - Visited five classrooms and spoke to 100+ secondary students about the unique opportunities provided by chess
 - Left to enthusiastic applause
- Met with the Director of Colegio La Salle and donated sets
 - The Colegio may invite instructors from ANAGE to its classrooms and promote inter-school chess exchange
 - Visited two classrooms and spoke to 50+ secondary students about the unique opportunities provided by chess
 - Left to enthusiastic applause
- Flew back to Malabo at night

Day 7, Wednesday, 11/21:

- Met with the Second Vice-Director and other heads of departments of GEPetrol
 - GEPetrol is willing to finance Equatoguinean chess, potentially to the same extent as the African game akong (for which it sponsored a prize of \$15000 at the national championship), and awaits a further proposal
- ANAGE receive form certified official Ministry of Education, University Instruction, endorsement of ANAGE as the national chess association of Equatorial Guinea
 - **Government of Equatorial Guinea thus recognized ANAGE, culminating a four-year effort by the President and Technical Director of ANAGE**

Day 8, Thursday, 11/22:

- Technical Director of ANAGE, Avi, and Seth interviewed live on program *A Fondo* on TVGE for 45 minutes.
- Met with Director of Colegio María Cano (private school in Malabo) and donated sets
 - María Cano will invite instructors from ANAGE to its classrooms, expand its chess club, and promote inter-school chess exchange
- Chess Festival at María Cano
 - Documented by TVGE
 - Attended by three top players of Malabo and 100+ students from 4 schools: María Cano, Lycée Français, Colegio Español (Malabo), Buen Pastor
 - First event: blindfold exhibition game by Avi vs top female chess player
 - Second event: simultaneous exhibition by Seth
 - Opponents: student champion of each of María Cano, Lycée Français, and Colegio Español and three top players of Malabo
 - Seth won 6/6, though last game proved difficult and lasted 1.5 hours
- Met with Minister, Secretary-General, and Director-General of Education, University Instruction, and Sport
 - Ministry affirmed moral and financial commitment to ANAGE, in particular to its planned scholastic program
 - Catlin Gabel Chess presented ANAGE directors with gift of Catlin Gabel School merchandise sponsored by the CGS administration, including T-shirts, which were also made possible by Catlin Gabel Athletics
 - And with USBs, donated by Catlin Gabel Information Technology, with numerous electronic chess resources downloaded in the US
 - Minister of Education, University Instruction, and Sport also presented with Catlin Gabel Chess T-shirt and Catlin Gabel pennant
- Met with First Secretary of the Embassy of Cameroon in Equatorial Guinea
 - The Embassy will be happy to facilitate collaboration between the robust Cameroonian Chess Federation and ANAGE

Next steps:

With the counsel and assistance of Catlin Gabel Chess, ANAGE will

- apply for membership in the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in the coming weeks

- submit written proposals to the schools, embassies, Spanish cultural centers, GEPetrol, Olympic Committee, Ministry of Education, University Instruction, and Sport
- begin selection process for national teams